

Request for Quotations (RFQ)

Appointment of a structural expert to conduct fit for purpose testing and assessment of foundation system for Agrément Certification.

RFQ Number	ASA 19/10/2023
Date of Issue	31 October 2023
Closing Date & Time	14 November 2023 @12:00pm NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED
Submissions	procurement@agrement.co.za

All enquiries to be directed to:

procurement@agrement.co.za

1. BACKGROUND

The Agrément South Africa Act was accented to by the Honourable President of the Republic of South Africa as Act No 11 of 2015 from 1 April 2017. Agrément South Africa was established as a Schedule 3A entity on 1 April 2017. The entity operates under a delegation of authority from the Minister of Public Works.

The main objectives are:

- To provide assurance of fitness-for-purpose of non-standard construction-related products and systems to specifiers and users.
- To support and promote the process of integrated socio-economic development in the Republic as it relates to the construction industry.
- To support and promote the introduction and use of certified non-standardized construction-related products or systems in the local or international market.
- To support policymakers in minimizing the risk associated with the use of non-standard construction-related products or systems; and
- To be an impartial and internationally acknowledged South African centre for assessment and confirmation of fitness-for-purpose of non-standard construction-related products or systems.

2. INVITATIONS FOR PROPOSAL

Agrément certification establishes fitness-for-purpose of innovative and non-standard construction products and systems through conducting an independent technical assessment and issuing certificates when the assessment has been conducted successfully. Agrément South Africa extends a call for the submission of proposals from suitably qualified structural engineers to assist with structural assessment of pile foundation system. The assessment should be based on applicable standards.

3. SPECIFICATION

The Pile Foundation System uses a steel pile group connected with a prefabricated steel pilecap to resist vertical (compression and uplift) and lateral loads. The system consists of a steel pilecap of thickness ranging from 4 mm to 10 mm and steel piles (circular hollow sections) of overall diameter of 42.4 mm, and thickness ranging from 2.5 mm to 4.0 mm. The base plates are drop forged and hot-dip galvanised in accordance with SANS 121/ISO 1461.

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The pile foundation system can be applied to the following occupancy classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, D1, D2, D3, D4, E1, E2, E3, E4, F1, F2, F3, G1, H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, J1, J2, J3 as stated in SANS 10400-A.

The assessment should be based on applicable standards.

The service provider is expected to make recommendations regarding the suitability of the product for Agrément certification.

All tests shall either be witnessed by an authorised Agrément South Africa assessor and be conducted by a registered competent person.

All test reports must:

- provide the full name, description and intended use of the product
- provide a technical description of the product
- detail results of every aspect of the test against the performance requirements
- be dated and
- be signed by the test officer and presented in pdf format.

The expert conducting the testing shall have over five (5) years of experience as a structural engineer, with a minimum of three contactable references (registration with a relevant Professional Body is required). The profiles (CV's detailing the person's educational background and work experience) of such persons shall be submitted to Agrément South Africa.

4. SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS AND QUALIFYING CRITERIA

4.1 Submission of procurement documents

- a) Latest National Treasury's Central Supplier Database (CSD) report. It must be noted that no contract with a service provider will be entered if such a service provider is not registered on the CSD,
- b) Completed and Signed Standard bidding documents, **SBD 4, and SBD 6.1.**
- c) Signed General Conditions of Contract.
- d) Completed price schedule.

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- e) Curriculum Vitae (CV) reflecting over five (5) years of experience as a Structural Engineer and at least three contactable references.
- f) Proof of accreditation with a relevant professional body (e.g. ECSA)
- g) Certified copies of qualifications.

4.2 Evaluation

4.2.1 Phase 1: Technical Specification and Functionality Evaluation

The bids shall first be evaluated for functionality. A minimum score of **60%** must be obtained on functionality before a proposal is considered for further evaluation. Details of the functionality scoring and how the points shall be allocated are as follows:

	Description	Weight (%)
1	<p>Professional Experience</p> <p>Minimum 5 years' experience in structural engineering field.</p> <p>A profile clearly indicating the number of years in structural engineering field must be submitted as evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has less than 3 years' experience – 0 points • Has 3 – 5 years' experience – 3 points • Has more than 5 years – 5 points 	20
2.	<p>References where similar work was done. The service provider must have dealt with various organisations from large to small-scale.</p> <p>At least 3 contactable references where similar services were rendered in the past 3 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 3 references – 0 points • 3 contactable references – 3 points • More than 3 contactable references – 5 points 	10
3.	<p>Accreditation</p> <p>The service provider must provide proof of accreditation with a relevant professional body and submit accreditation certificate (e.g Engineering Council of South Africa)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No proof submitted – 0 points • Proof submitted – 5 points 	20

4	<p>Relevant qualification</p> <p>The service provider must provide a Curriculum Vitae (CV) reflecting years of experience and relevant qualifications on the field of expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has less than 3 years' experience – 0 points • Has 3 – 5 years' experience – 3 points • Has more than 5 years – 5 points 	20
5.	<p>Methodology and Approach</p> <p>The service provider must demonstrate their understanding of the key requirements and expectations of ASA as outlined in this document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No proof submitted – 0 points • Proof submitted – 5 points 	30
	TOTAL	100

The following formula will be used to convert the points scored against the weight:

$$Ps = \left(\frac{So}{Ms} \right) \times \text{weighting percentage for the section under consideration}$$

Where:

Ps = Percentage scored for functionality by bid under consideration

So = Total score of bid under consideration

Ms = Maximum possible score

Service providers will be expected to achieve a minimum threshold score of 60% in order to proceed to Phase 2.

4.2.2 Phase 2: Calculations of points

Please note that for acquisitions below or equal to R50 Million, ASA evaluates these in terms of the 80/20 preference point system where:

80 points are allocated for the price, and 20 points will be awarded based on the specific goals.

Points for the price will be calculated for all shortlisted service providers by the following formula:

$$P_s = 80 \left(1 - \frac{P_t - P_{\min}}{P_{\min}} \right)$$

Where:

P_s = Points scored for the price of the quotation under consideration

P_t = Price of the quotation under consideration

P_{\min} = Price of lowest acceptable quotation

Preference points for the specific goals will be allocated as follows:

NO.	SPECIFIC GOALS ALLOCATED POINTS	PREFERENCE POINTS ALLOCATION	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE TO BE SUBMITTED
1.	SMMEs	10 points	- A B-BBEE certificate /sworn affidavit as supporting evidence /CSD report
2.	>50% Black female ownership	5 points	- CSD report or, - Company registration certificate, as issued by the CIPC, clearly indicating the percentage shareholding of all owners
3.	>50% Black youth ownership	5 points	- CSD report, - Company registration certificate, as issued by the CIPC, clearly indicating the percentage shareholding of all owners, or - Identification Documentation of all owners

The final points will be calculated as follows:

CRITERIA	WEIGHTING POINTS
Price	80
Specific goal	20
TOTAL	100

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ASA also reserves the right to investigate the bidder's financial position, previous contracts carried out, availability of skills or knowledge, existing workload, etc.

A recommendation for the award will then be formulated for approval by the relevant delegated authority.

5. TERMS OF CONTRACT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Before the bid is awarded, the successful bidder shall be required to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Agreement South Africa (ASA). The SLA shall form the contractual basis for the delivery of the service as well as how performance shall be measured.

Contract extensions are at the sole discretion of ASA.

6. PRICE SCHEDULE (can attach a separate detailed price schedule)

Item no	Item Description	Hours (h)	Rate per hour (R/h)	Total Price
01	Structural assessment			
02	Compiling a report on the performance of the product.			
TOTAL AMOUNT (EXCL VAT)				
15% VAT				
TOTAL AMOUNT (ALL INCLUSIVE)				

7. COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Considering the fees paid, the service provider expressly assigns to ASA any copyright arising from the works the consultant produces while executing this contract. The consultant may not use, reproduce or otherwise disseminate or authorise others to use, reproduce or disseminate such works without prior consent from ASA.

8. FINAL APPROVAL

ASA reserves the right not to accept the lowest bid. ASA also reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals, and/or not to appoint any service provider at all.

9. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

9.1 All proposals must be submitted electronically to procurement@agrement.co.za.

9.2 Respondents must use the RFQ number as the subject reference number when submitting their bids.

9.3 All documents submitted electronically via e-mail must be clear and visible.

9.4 All proposals, documents, and late submissions after the due date will not be evaluated.

NB: NO HARD COPIES OR PHYSICAL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

10. VALIDITY PERIOD OF PROPOSAL

Each proposal shall be valid for a minimum period of **three (3) months** calculated from the closing date.

11. APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER

11.1 The contract will be awarded to the bidder who scores the highest total number of points during the evaluation process, except where the law permits otherwise.

11.2 Appointment as a successful service provider shall be subject to the parties agreeing to mutually acceptable contractual terms and conditions. In the event of the parties failing to reach such an agreement, ASA reserves the right to appoint an alternative supplier.

11.3 Awarding of contracts will be announced on the National Treasury website, and no regret letters will be sent to unsuccessful bidders.

12. ENQUIRIES AND CONTACT WITH ASA

12.1 Any inquiry regarding this RFQ shall be submitted in writing to ASA at procurement@agrement.co.za with RFQ No: ASA 19/10/2023 "Appointment of a structural expert to conduct fit for purpose testing and assessment of foundation system for Agrément Certification".

12.2 Any other contact with ASA personnel involved in this Quotation is not permitted during the RFQ process other than as required through existing service arrangements or as requested by ASA as part of the RFQ process.

13. MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION

All documentation submitted in response to this RFQ must be in English.

14. COST OF PROPOSAL

Tenderers are expected to fully acquaint themselves with the conditions, requirements, and specifications of this RFP before submitting proposals. Each bidder assumes all risks for resource commitment and expenses, direct or indirect, of proposal preparation and participation throughout the RFP process. ASA is not responsible directly or indirectly for any costs incurred by tenderers.

15. CORRECTNESS OF RESPONSES

- 15.1 The bidder must confirm satisfaction regarding the correctness and validity of their proposal and that all prices and rates quoted cover all the work/items specified in the RFP. The prices and rates quoted must cover all obligations under any resulting contract.
- 15.2 The bidder accepts that any mistakes regarding prices and calculations will be at their own risk.

16. VERIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 16.1 Bidders should check the numbers of the pages to satisfy themselves that none are missing or duplicated. ASA will accept no liability concerning anything arising from the fact that pages are missing or duplicated.
- 16.2 Only one electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted via email to procurement@agrement.co.za. If the bidder sends more than one proposal, the first submission shall take precedence should it not have been recalled/withdrawn in writing by the bidder.

17. ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 17.1 A tenderer shall not assume that information and/or documents supplied to ASA, at any time prior to this request, are still available to ASA, and shall consequently not make any reference to such information document in its response to this request.
- 17.2 Copies of any affiliations, memberships and/or accreditations that support your submission must be included in the tender.

- 17.3 An omission to disclose material information, a factual inaccuracy, and/or misrepresentation of fact may result in the disqualification of a tender, or cancellation of any subsequent contract.
- 17.4 Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions as set out in this document will invalidate the proposal.

18 ASA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO

- 18.1 Extend the closing date.
- 18.2 Verify any information contained in a proposal.
- 18.3 Request documentary proof regarding any tendering issue.
- 18.4 Appoint one or more service providers, separately or jointly (whether they submitted a joint proposal).
- 18.5 Award this RFQ as a whole or in part.
- 18.6 Cancel or withdraw this RFQ as a whole or in part

19 DISCLAIMER

This document is only a RFQ is a request for proposals only and not an offer document. Answers to this RFQ must not be construed as acceptance of an offer or imply the existence of a contract between the parties. By submission of this proposal, tenderers shall be deemed to have satisfied themselves with and to have accepted all Terms & Conditions of this RFQ. ASA makes no representation, warranty, assurance, guarantee or endorsement to the tenderer concerning the RFQ, whether with regard to its accuracy, completeness or otherwise and ASA shall have no liability towards the tenderer or any other party in connection therewith.

20. POPIA

Protection of Personal Information - All bidders agree that personal information of persons related to or linked with bidders or respondents to this request for proposals may be required to fulfil the requirements for submitting a bid. All bidders agree that the ASA may collect, keep and process such information provided that the aforesaid uses shall be for purposes of evaluating the bid submitted. Where the information is sought to be used for other purposes, further and specific consent shall be obtained.